



St Andrew's College

Secondary School

Annual Report June 2024

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Ms Lynn Wiley

Mr I Schuster, BA (NUI), FCA, Secretary (In attendance)

Introduction

This report has been prepared to cover the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

School enrolment

At the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year, secondary school enrolment was 1029. Of the total, 868 were Irish nationals, 34 were US citizens, and 127 other nationalities.

Faculty

In 2023/24 there were 141 full-time and 37 part-time faculty members of which 165 are Irish citizens and 15 other nationalities. The mixture of nationalities adds to the international character of the College.

Dr Nicholas Frewin

It was with great sadness that we marked the passing of Dr Nicholas (Nick) Frewin, whose funeral took place on Monday, 27 November 2023 in Mount Jerome Crematorium, Harold's Cross. Dr Frewin joined the St Andrew's College staff in August 1966, when the school, under the headmastership of Mr PJ Southgate was still based in Clyde Road. In those days, he taught physics, music, Latin and even P.E.

With the move to Booterstown and the provision of three state-of-the-art science laboratories, the subject of biology began to establish itself in the curriculum and, under Dr Frewin's inspiring leadership, the department evolved into one of the most popular and successful in the school. 40 years is a long time for anyone to teach in any one school. Some might begin to lose their edge, or their enthusiasm, or their ability to relate to their students. Not Dr Frewin. In fact, he went on to teach in the Junior School for a further 12 years inspiring yet more of our students. His classes provided a wonderful combination of expert tuition, personal charm and a great sense of humour which is the hallmark of the truly gifted teacher that he was.

We are all indebted to Dr Frewin for his service to the St Andrew's College community he so genuinely loved, and that holds him in such great esteem.

Facilities

The school buildings and grounds are owned by the College Patron – the Board of Governors. Facilities include 72 classrooms, 21 tutorial rooms, seven laboratories, a science garden, five art rooms, two home economics rooms, two libraries, 20 resource rooms, two assembly halls, a dining hall, a sports hall, gym and an administration centre. Outdoor sports facilities include 12 rugby pitches, two hockey pitches, one water-based, the other sand-based and two basketball training hoops.

The College has a dedicated Sixth Form Centre. It comprises two private study rooms and an open area for Sixth Year interaction and activities. The College also has a designated Guidance Suite, Study Centre and Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Centre. We have parking for approximately 120 cars.

Theme

The academic year began with a Whole School Opening Service on Tuesday, 19 September where the theme *'Our Community – St Andrew's College Together'* was shared with the students as the theme for the year.

New Building Programme

The new building programme was due to commence in 2022. However, the escalation in both construction costs and interest rates lead to a reassessment of the overall scale and phasing of the project. A revised masterplan had been agreed by the Board of Governors and the design team have been instructed to prepare detailed plans for Phase One with a view to lodging planning permission in Q4 of 2024.

Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to provide a liberal, balanced and comprehensive education. A programme comprising 30 academic subjects and a wide variety of sports and extra-curricular activities is offered. The majority of students take courses leading to the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations, while others follow the International Baccalaureate programme. Support for Learning and English as an Additional Language services are provided. The Transition Year programme offers a multi-faceted course of study intended to help students choose the most suitable subjects for the Leaving Certificate. The school is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Council of International Schools (CIS).

The College provides the following programmes of education for its students:

- The Junior Cycle Programme (three year)
- The Transition Year Programme - compulsory for all students
- The Leaving Certificate Programme (two year)
- The International Baccalaureate – (Diploma Programme – Fifth to Sixth Year)

Junior Cycle Programme

The Junior Cycle is a three year programme. Students with their parent/guardian have to choose the subjects which are available at Junior Cycle level.

Details of each option available are outlined in a booklet which is prepared annually. If necessary, further information can be obtained from the subject representative at the Options Meeting held in January.

All students will study the following subjects:

- CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education)
- English
- Geography
- History

- Irish (except where officially exempted)
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science
- SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education)

In addition to the above subjects, students choose two subjects from the following list:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Classical Studies
- Home Economics
- Music
- Spanish
- Technical Graphics

And one of the following modern languages:

- French
- German
- Spanish

The range of subjects offered is in keeping with the aim of the Junior Cycle programme in that it provides a broad and balanced curriculum to all students in the first years of post-primary school.

Wellbeing

In the context of Junior Cycle reform, there is an increased focus on the need to ensure that the wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of school life. Accordingly, the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) have developed Wellbeing Guidelines. These guidelines govern what we, as a school, now set out to achieve. Wellbeing is present when students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with the normal stresses of life, and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community (The Guidelines for Wellbeing in Junior Cycle 2021).

The College has always placed a strong emphasis on the wellbeing of the school community. The introduction of a formal wellbeing programme complements the support structures already in place to support wellbeing. Through its policies and procedures, the College seeks to provide a safe, caring environment for all.

As part of this programme Junior Cycle students have timetabled classes in CSPE, SPHE and PE. They also partake in modules on digital literacy and nutrition.

Transition Year Programme

Transition Year lays the foundation for Fifth and Sixth Year. The aim of the year is to provide the skills and encourage the maturity necessary for the successful completion of the International Baccalaureate or the Leaving Certificate. A central theme of the year is autonomous learning.

Students take responsibility for themselves and their future. They are given the opportunity to explore many subjects in areas including the Arts, Science and Technology and the Humanities. It is also possible for students to explore the possibility of new subjects prior to making their Leaving Certificate or International Baccalaureate choices. The St Andrew's College Transition Year programme facilitates students in exploring their own talents, abilities and interests beyond the confines of the timetable.

Leaving Certificate Programme

Halfway through Transition Year, students, with their parents/guardians, must choose the subjects they are going to take in the Leaving Certificate. It is important to consider the implications these choices may have on future third level and career choices. There are 23 subjects to choose from within the Leaving Certificate programme in the school. Students are required to choose seven/eight of these.

It is important to make a balanced choice of subjects. This would probably include:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- A Modern Foreign Language
- A Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) – **if a requirement for a college course**
- And 2/3 other subjects.

The following subjects are available:

Accounting	Design & Communication Graphics	Irish
Agricultural Science	Economics	Mathematics
Applied Mathematics	English	Music
Art	French	Politics and Society
Biology	Geography	Physics
Business	German	Religious Education
Chemistry	History	Spanish
Classical Studies	Home Economics	

International Baccalaureate Programme

The IB programme has been offered in the College since 1982 and we have found it to be an excellent preparation for courses at universities and colleges all over the world in a wide variety of subject areas. We believe that it provides an ideal training for students who are moving on to further education, and produces young adults with a broad academic base, enquiring minds and diverse social interests. The IB is different to the Leaving Certificate. In the IB students focus on critical thinking, understanding and processing knowledge. Their examinations test that they understand the concepts as opposed to just learning them. The IB is viewed globally by the top universities including the Ivy League as the premier academic programme for undergraduate success.

Students entering 5IB are expected to enrol in six subjects in addition to studying Theory of Knowledge, participating in the CAS programme and writing an Extended Essay. These subjects are selected from offerings in groups 1 to 6 to ensure that all students can study at least one subject from

each group. All students taking the Diploma programme must take 3 subjects at higher level, 3 subjects at standard level and complete an Extended Essay.

Subject selection at this stage in a student's life involves making important decisions and should be made in consultation with parents, teachers and the guidance counsellor. These choices must take into account each student's:

- ◆ long term education and career goals
- ◆ demonstrated skills and strengths
- ◆ current interests

Student Progress and Reporting

Student progress is monitored on an on-going basis by teachers. Any matters of concern can be recorded by teachers in the student's school diary for signing by parents or issues can be recorded on the school's database, VShare. The College email system is also an effective tool providing a two-way communication platform between parents and teachers during term time. Additionally, the school organises a parent-teacher meeting for each year group on an annual basis, either in person or online.

Below are the reporting structures. Whilst formal reports are sent at regular intervals, parents are encouraged to make contact at any point during the year with subject teachers or form teachers if they are concerned about their child's progress.

Year	First Term	Second Term	Third Term
First Year	Autumn (brief report) Christmas (full report)	Spring (brief report)	Summer (full report)
Second Year	Autumn (brief report) Christmas (full report)	Spring (brief report)	Summer (full report)
Third Year	Autumn (brief report) Christmas (full report)	Trial (marks)	Letter from Year Team
Transition Year	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report)	February (marks)	Summer (full report)
Fifth Year/IB	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report)	February (brief report) Spring (marks)	Summer (full report)
Sixth Year	Autumn (marks) Christmas (full report)	Trial (LC marks)	
IB	Trial (IB-full report)	Predicted Grades (IB)	

Examination Results

The following numbers of students took part in State Examinations in 2023:

- Junior Cycle 162
- Leaving Certificate 137
- International Baccalaureate 22

We were delighted to celebrate the wonderful, International Baccalaureate and Leaving Certificate results which saw nine of our students achieving 625 points in the Leaving Certificate with average points being 521. The average points scored per candidate in the IB was 34 points. The average grade awarded was 5.35 out of a possible 7.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The following activities took place in the current academic year:

Art Club	Badminton	Basketball
Chess Club	Christian Union	Choir
Debating	Drumming	Environmental Group/Green School
French Speaking and Debating Club	Grapevine (College Magazine)	Guitar and Ukulele Group
Hockey	Intercultural Week	International Economic Olympiad
Instrumental Lessons	Jazz Ensemble	Keelboat Sailing and Team Racing
Linguistics Olympiad Club	Literacy Committee	Maths Club
Music Technology Club	Model United Nations (MUN)	Orchestra
Reading Club	Robotics and Coding Club/First Lego League	Rugby
Speech and Drama	Strength and Conditioning	Student Council
Traditional Irish Music Group	The President's Award (An Gaisce)	Wine Dark Sea
Writers Club	Young Economist of the Year	Young Scientist

Sports

Participation in sporting activities is regarded by the College as desirable for all students as it provides a means of complementing their academic and social development. While participation is the basic objective it must also be recognised that the pursuit and achievement of success in competitive sport is essential in maintaining the interest of the students and the morale of the teams.

It will always be necessary to strike a balance between the needs of students and teams which represent the College in local, regional or national competitions and the policy of maximising the numbers of students who can participate in the sports of their choice.

In order to accommodate the wide range of sporting interests among students, the College seeks to provide opportunities for participation in many different sports and activities.

Sports Highlights

Boys Basketball

The Senior boys got off to a great start this year by topping their pool made up of Blackrock College, Coláiste Eoin, Oatlands College and Presentation College Bray with four wins out of four in the league. They went on to progress in the competition to the final losing (41-70) to a very impressive Coláiste Éanna side. In the last 16 All-Irelands play-off game against St Mary's Portlaoise, the Senior boys ran out 49-45 winners in a bruising contest. In the quarter final they beat Crescent College, Limerick 55-47 before going down 58-73 against Kerry heavyweights, Mercy Mounthawk. They finished a very respectable 3rd place in the Irish A League out of 873 schools which was a fantastic achievement and the highest finish ever by our school team. In the All-Ireland Cup, the boys lost out by one basket to St Malachy's College, Belfast in a close and hard-fought game.

The Senior B team competed well in their league but failed to progress through their pool. It was however, an important experience for these players as many of them will feed into our first team next year.

The U16 boys took on Marist College, Athlone winning out 63-35 in the first round of the All-Ireland Cup. In the second round they went down to a strong Presentation College Bray team losing out 68-43. In the league the boys got off to a good start with wins over Oatlands College and Coláiste Eoin. Presentation College Bray once again proved to be their downfall as despite a spirited comeback they lost out 38-49. In their final pool game, they beat Blackrock 48-40 to finish 2nd place behind Presentation College Bray. In the league quarter final, they lost to Coláiste Éanna which brought their season to a close.

The Second Year boys had a solid league campaign winning three of their four pool games to qualify through to the Dublin League quarter-final where they were well beaten by Adamstown Community School 51-24 to round off their season. In the All-Ireland Cup semi-final, the team went down on a score line of 60-30 against an extremely strong Coláiste Éinde team that went on to secure the trophy in the final.

The First Year boys began their season by winning the SAC Invitational Tournament in December. They also got their league campaign off to a good start by beating Blackrock College 63-14 in early January. They went on to top their pool and progress to the semi-final where they beat Malahide Community

School 52-40. In the final, the First Year boys won the College's first ever Division A trophy by winning the Dublin A League title 40-34 in a tight match against Presentation College Bray. In the All-Ireland Cup semi-final against Coláiste Éinde they went down 60-30 to a very powerful side.

Representatives

Harley Bruncker (First Year) and Conor Bates (Second Year) were selected to play on the Basketball Ireland Boys East Region U14 Academy for the 2023/2024 season.

Adam McCormick (Third Year) was selected for the East Region team to play in the Schools Inter Regional Basketball Tournament in October.

Girls Basketball

The Senior girls enjoyed a very competitive season winning six of their seven league games. They finished second in their pool which qualified them for the league final in which they lost out 50-53 to Loreto Bray in a close contest having led going into the final minutes of the match. They qualified for the last 16 of the All-Irelands where they beat Ursuline College Waterford 42-26. This victory saw them progress to the last eight of the All-Ireland B League where they were beaten by Mercy Secondary School 45-30. In the All-Ireland B Cup, the girls progressed to the semi-final but were well beaten 30-60 by a strong Marist Dundalk side.

The Junior girls were also very strong in their league with five wins out of seven games. A tough, one point loss against Dominican College 32-31 saw them fail to progress to the play-offs. They made it into the final of the All-Ireland Cup but were beaten 48-42 by Coláiste na Carraige in a very close match.

The Second Year girls qualified to the All-Ireland play-offs which were hosted in St Andrew's College and featured schools from Cork, Kerry and Waterford. The girls had a disappointing run losing their three games but despite the losses finished in the top 16, an extremely good performance from the team. They reached the cup final but lost out to Castleknock College 43-23.

The First Year girls had a mixed season winning two and losing three of their league games. They were eliminated in the cup semi-final by a strong Castleknock College side.

Representatives

Orla Brennan (First Year) was selected to play on the Basketball Ireland Girls East Region U14 Academy for the 2023/2024 season.

Girls Cricket

This year we entered six girls cricket teams with two teams at senior, junior and minor levels.

Two of our teams managed to progress into the final of their respective competitions with the Junior A's losing out to Skerries Community College.

Our First Year A team won the Cup, beating The High School in the final.

Boys Cricket

Our First Year players won all of their group games in Division A except for one against Gonzaga College but still managed to top their section receiving a bye into the semi-final where they beat The King's Hospital School by eight wickets. In the final they lost to a very good Wesley College team.

Our Second Year players were drawn into a tough group again in Division A, where the two teams that beat us reached the final. The highlight of the season was an excellent win against Gonzaga College and there are encouraging signs from this group moving forward.

The JCT have been very successful all season, going undefeated in their section, winning all five games. In the semi-final they lost to a strong High School team who were also undefeated through the group stages.

Track and Field Athletics

The East Leinster Championships took place in April and May with 80 of our athletes participating. Following two days of competitions, the girls accumulated 46 points which qualified them for a top three finish with the boys not far behind on 40 points.

Some of the highlights across the two days were wins for Andrew McGilton (Senior 800m), Edward O'Shea (Minor Boys Long Jump), Hayley Williamson (Minor Girls High Jump) and 1st place for our Senior girls 4 x 300m relay team. Carlotta Castagna Vazquez de Parga (Senior Javelin), Luke Dolly (U16 200m), Rosanna Hickey (Senior 800m) and Alanna O'Neill (Inter Javelin) all performed outstandingly well for 2nd place finishes. In the Leinster Championships our athletes competed well without progressing to the All-Irelands.

Equestrian

Our Equestrian Team got their season off to a great start finishing 6th place in the St Gerard's leg of the TRI League at the Boswell Equestrian Centre. A number of new riders have joined the team this year and with the majority of them currently in First to Third Year we hope to grow the sport over the coming years.

Golf

We had three teams qualify for the All-Ireland Schools finals which took place at Milltown Golf Club in April. Alex Kearney performed brilliantly finishing with 44 points. This placed her 2nd in the individual category, just missing out by one point. Amy O'Connor came in with 23 points on the day which gave our Junior Team a total of 67 points which was enough for tied 4th position overall. Cameron McConnell was the pick of the Junior boys coming in with 38 points finishing 10th place out of 38 competitors. Aaron Hickey (24 points) and Ryan Whelan (26 points) completed the team effort, finishing 7th place overall. In the Senior girls category playing off scratch, Rachel Connolly and Abbie O'Connor both had 14 points with Ella May Spain contributing ten points to the team score. This competition brought a conclusion to a very successful year on the golf course for the College.

Representatives

Dylan Holmes (Fifth Year) was selected to represent Leinster in the Inter Provincials who won the title.

Girls Hockey

The Senior girls enjoyed a good season but were unlucky to draw Mount Anville School in the first round of the cup going down 2-1 in a tight game. They went through to the plate where they advanced all the way to the final but lost out on 1 v 1's against St Gerard's School. In the league, three wins and a draw were enough to see them top their group and make it through to the semi-final against Wesley College where they were beaten 1-0.

The Senior 2's enjoyed a great run in the league. They won five of their six games and qualified for the play-offs in which they had a 4-3 win on 1 v 1's against Loreto Foxrock. In the final they lost 1-0 to a strong Mount Anville School side. The Senior D's did enough in their league to also qualify for the play-offs. In the semi-final they were beaten by Mount Anville School 2-0.

The Junior A team had a tough season eventually getting two wins from their five league games. In the cup they were eliminated by St Gerard's School before progressing through two rounds of the Plate in which they were knocked out at the semi-final stage by Mount Anville School 1-0 having put in a very brave performance.

The Minor A's had a strong season eventually losing their first game of the season to Holy Child Killiney in the league semi-final, going down 4-3 on 1 v 1's. They were then eliminated from the Cup by Muckross College 1-0. The Minor B's had a great season losing out to Loreto Foxrock in the semi-final of the league. Our Minor C's and D's enjoyed competitive seasons without making it through their pools. The First Year A team made it through as far as the semi-finals of the league where they were beaten 2-0 by Wesley College. In the cup they lost out on 1 v 1's to Loreto Dalkey having played out a 0-0 draw. The First Year C team reached the semi-final of league but lost 1-0 to Loreto Dalkey. The First Year D's also lost out at the semi-final stage to Mount Anville School going down 1-0.

Representatives

The following students represented Leinster U18's:- Ellen Hiles, Ruby Mullen, Abbie O'Connor (Fifth Year) and Emilie O'Brien (Sixth Year) with Izzy Duggan (Fifth Year) playing for the Leinster South U18 team. Anna Butler and Chloe Hiles (Third Year) both represented the Leinster U16 team.

Boys Hockey

The Senior 1st XI Boys enjoyed a really good season. In the All-Irelands in October, a loss in their final pool game of 2-1 to Wallace High School meant they qualified for the Herbie Sharman Trophy. In the semi-final they overcame Wesley College on 1 v 1's having played out a 3-3 draw. In the final they lost on 1 v 1's against Banbridge High School having held them to a 1-1 draw in normal time. In the league, late drama in both games against Wesley College proved pivotal. A last-minute penalty corner saw the team lose 2-1 in the first meeting while two late goals in the final four minutes in the return fixture saw Wesley College snatch the draw they needed from the tie. They eventually finished 2nd place in the league. A tough draw in the cup saw them play The King's Hospital School in the first round. A 3-2 away victory gave them a home tie against The High School in the semi-final. A late goal was enough to see them through to the final on a 2-1 scoreline. In the final against Wesley College, the team recovered from going a goal behind to claw it back and win the Senior Cup, running out 3-1 winners on the day to round off a great season.

Our Senior B team enjoyed a fantastic season. Narrow one goal losses to Temple Carrig School, The King's Hospital School and St Columba's College saw the team move to Division 3. From there, they

completed a perfect season winning seven games out of seven to win Division 3 comfortably and rounded off the season with a 4-2 win against Wesley College B in the B Cup final.

The Junior A boys won the Junior League with six wins. In the cup they were beaten 3-2 in the final moments of the game by a very strong Wesley College side. The Junior B team qualified for the Division 3 final where they met a strong Sandford Park School team going down 2-0 on the day. Our Junior C team battled their way through to the Junior C League final where they played Mount Temple School B team. In glorious sunshine, they won a great game by 4-2 to win the Junior C League.

The Minor A boys lost out in a play-off against Wesley College in the league having played out a 1-1 draw against them in the regular season. In the cup they went down to the same opponent losing out 2-1. In the John Waring All-Ireland they lost out to Cookstown High School by a single goal in the first game having dominated the game. From there they were playing catch up and three wins and a draw was enough to see them finish second behind Cookstown High School. It was a great day in Lisburn to finish their season. Our Minor B team were competitive throughout the year and enjoyed a great season winning Division 3.

Our U13 A team won the cup final beating The King's Hospital School 2-1. They finished runners up in the league behind a strong Wesley College side who they managed to eliminate in the cup. Our U13 B and C teams both competed well in their respective leagues.

Representatives

The following students were selected as part of the Leinster U18 Squad for the Inter-Provincials:-

Zach Bailey, Captain, Henry Rhys-Thomas (Transition Year), Jacob Davy, Jack Fairmaner, William Knatchbull and Zach Silverman (Fifth Year).

Toby Slye-O'Connell (Third Year) was our sole representative on the Leinster U-16 team which dominated the tournament this year.

Zach Silverman and Toby Slye-O'Connell are currently training with the Irish U16's and U18's respectively ahead of this summer's tournaments.

Rugby

Our SCT enjoyed a very good pre-season with the squad returning to training in August. They got their league campaign off to a great start with wins against St Patrick's Navan and Wilson's Hospital but player injuries saw their campaign tail off and unfortunately, they didn't qualify for the play-offs. In the Vinnie Murray Cup, a first-round loss to The High School 24-18 saw them go through to the Vinnie Murray Plate. A win of 17-16 against Wilson's Hospital in the semi-final of this competition saw them through to the final against St Patrick's Navan. A thriller of a match ended in a 43-38 win for St Andrew's College finishing off a great year of rugby.

We were very pleased to field a Senior Second XV team this year with four fixtures in total.

Later in the season, the SCT travelled to the North of England 7s in Birkenhead. The main competition was unfortunately cancelled due to flooded pitches but a mini tournament took place with St Andrew's College winning both of their matches.

Our JCT lost one game in their league campaign as they qualified comfortably for the league semi-final. They had a win over St Patrick's Navan of 17-8 and progressed to the final against The King's Hospital School. In a game that swung both ways they eventually came out on top with a score of 30-25 to win the league in Donnybrook Energia Stadium. In the Father Godfrey Cup, they were beaten by CBS Naas, the only team to have beaten them in the league, where they went down 22-19. In the Father Godfrey Plate, they won through to the final where they had a repeat of the league final against The King's Hospital School. Again, the team won with a score of 34-24 to add the plate trophy to their league win.

Our U-14 had a competitive season winning six of their eleven fixtures with three of this group also playing up with the JCT. Our U-13's had a great year playing 29 fixtures and managing to field an A and B Team throughout the season.

The Girls SCT qualified for the Senior Cup semi-final beating a good Wilson's Hospital side 32-14 but went down 35-5 to a strong Loreto Wexford team.

Representatives

Libby O'Gorman (Sixth Year) was selected for the Leinster U18 7s Team to play in the inter pro competition. Both Libby and Erin Egan (Fifth Year) were selected for the Leinster U18 Metro training squad.

Serge Broughton (Transition Year) was selected for Leinster U18 trials but failed to progress through to the training squad.

Swimming

The Leinster Schools Championships took place in February at the National Aquatic Centre. Daíre Finlayson earned a silver medal and Ian Middleton was awarded a bronze medal. There were also good performances from our other swimmers.

In the Irish Senior School Relay Championships in March, we came away with two silver medals in the Mixed Freestyle Relay and the Mixed Medley Relay.

Sailing

This year SAC Sailing Club had an enormous amount of success and continues to increase in numbers. We now have a pathway established from P3 in the junior school to Sixth Year in the senior school. This allows for an increase in skills, talent and exposure to the sport at a much earlier age of nine years old. We currently have 70 sailors on a weekly basis on the water. Membership of the SAC Sailing Club is now at approximately 150 students between both Junior and Senior School. We also have approximately 30 active Alumni Members. We are very hopeful that these numbers will grow as the years progress. We also have two past pupils active on the Alumni Committee.

Awards Achieved 2023/2024

Irish Sailing Association (ISA) School of the Year

Irish National Sailing School (INSS) Shanahan Cup Champions

The Irish Schools Team Racing Association (ISTRA) Leinster Champions

Events

The first event of the season was the inaugural SAC Alumni Championship. This was a huge success with approximately 11 teams taking part, made up of past and current pupils. The racing was followed by a dinner at the Royal St George Yacht Club (RSGYC) for all teams and volunteers. This annual event will take place again in October and we already have Alumni teams committed. Over the course of three months SAC competed in the Shanahan Cup. This took place at the Irish National Sailing School (INSS) and the students sailed in very cool winds and low winter sea temperatures between November and February. This year we entered two teams and were awarded podium positions, 1st and 3rd place. This was followed by the TR Leinster Championships at which our teams were nicely rewarded for their continued training throughout the year and became the Team Racing Leinster Champions for the second time running. We entered five teams to this event and qualified our quota of two teams for the Irish TR National Championships which took place over the May bank holiday weekend in Bantry Bay. Our team progressed to the semi-finals but lost out to the overall winners, Schull Sailing School.

Also, over the Bank Holiday weekend, the Team Racing Club took part in an Invitational Clinic/Event held in West Kirby, United Kingdom. This was a great experience for our sailors as it afforded them the opportunity to train with and compete against UK schools.

Team Racing Training and Events

This program continues to take place every Wednesday afternoon at the RSGYC where sailors train with other secondary schools through the Team Racing Schools Program which was established two years ago in conjunction with the RSGYC. As members of the TR Schools Program, all of our SAC sailors receive honorary membership which means sailors do not have to join the club and have access to high performance level coaching at a minimal cost.

Keelboat Program

Our Keelboat Program continues to take place every Wednesday at the RSGYC and allows our new sailors to build on their skills gained from the previous Autumn term. This program also provides a pathway for sailors who wish to eventually progress to the more competitive side of sailing in the Team Racing Program which runs throughout the entire academic year.

Summer Clinics

The summer clinics run throughout June, July and August at the RSGYC. They are available to all members of the St Andrew's College sailing club. They allow sailors improve their skills in the warmer weather in advance of the first event of 2024/25 academic year, the Elmo Cup at the end of August.

We continue to support our large list of performance sailors who race nationally and internationally at European and World Championships.

Girls Tennis

This year we fielded eight teams with four at Minor, two at Junior and two at Senior levels.

The Senior A team reached the quarter-finals of Division 2 where they lost to Wesley College who went on to win the trophy. The Senior B team lost out at a similar stage of their competition to Alexandra College.

The Junior A team qualified for Division 1 and lost out at the quarter-final stage 2-1 to St Gerard's School with the final match being decided in a championship tie break. The Junior B team reached the final of their league by beating Holy Child Killiney in a tight semi-final. In the final they lost in a championship tie break to St Gerard's School.

Of the four Minor teams, the Minor A's bowed out at the quarter-final stage to Our Lady's Terenure. The Minor B's lost out to Loreto on the Green in the second round while our Minor C team won their league beating Muckcross Park College in the final. On the way to the final they also eliminated our Minor D team.

Boys Tennis

This year we fielded six teams with two teams at Minor, Junior and Senior. Our Senior A team lost out to St Mary's College with the final match going to a championship tie break. Our Senior B team advanced to the Division 3 semi-final but went down 3-2 to Kilkenny College. The Junior A team competed well in Division 1 winning one of their five matches. This was the College's first win in that league. Our Junior B team played Sandford Park in the final of Division 3 where they lost 4-1 to a very strong side.

At Minor level our Minor A's beat Clongowes Wood 3-2 in the final of Division 2 to lift the title for the second time in the last four years. Our Minor B's also had a strong campaign in Division 3 but unfortunately did not progress to the final of the league having lost out on a championship tie break in their game against Wesley College.

Sports Awards

The College Sports Awards took place on Monday, 20 May, with a whole school assembly in the sports hall. Students were given recognition for their contribution made to sport as athletes. Player of the Year Awards were presented in all sports as well as spirit awards to the players who encapsulated the spirit of what we look for in our players. Representatives were also recognised while the sports' cups for Sports Day were also distributed.

Performing Arts

College Musical

The College Musical 'Sister Act' took place over four nights from Monday 27 to Thursday 30 November 2023 with 167 students involved from backstage (make-up, hair, costumes, box office, stage managers, props, front of house, set), set painters, set designers, cast/chorus to dancers and leads. All the shows were sold out and were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

As always, the musical was a school community endeavour with many teachers assisting backstage with make-up, hair, costumes and photography, while the PTA provided interval refreshments every night.

U-Live

The annual Transition Year U-Live event took place on Wednesday, 8 February, 2024 comprising performances from over 100 students with acts from all year groups. A fantastic night with more than half of the Transition Year student body, a number of staff managing the entire event including front

of house, backstage, photography, lighting and sound. The evening was a great success with approximately €4,000 raised for the Uganda project.

One Act Drama Festival

The College One-Act Drama Festival took place on Tuesday 19 March and Thursday 21 March. The plays performed were 'Starline One Seventeen' and 'TV Dinner' on Tuesday and 'Dead End' and 'Variations on the Death of Trotsky' on Thursday.

Music and Art Festival

The 2024 Music and Dance Festival took place from Tuesday 19 to Thursday 21 March and was followed by the End of Year Music and Art Department Evening on Wednesday 24 April. The audience were treated to a fantastic variety of extremely high-quality performances from the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Orchestra, Trad Group and Guitar ensemble in addition to the prizewinners of the Music and Dance Festival. A wonderful exhibition of art was displayed by the art department showcasing the incredible talent of our art students.

Transition Year

The Transition Year programme traditionally strikes a balance between classroom-based learning and experiential activities outside the classroom. The year commenced with trips to Donegal's Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre and Mayo's An Uisce Water Adventure Centre. During these excursions, students engaged in a variety of outdoor sports and activities, including kayaking, archery, orienteering, and climbing. These trips also provided an opportunity to meet new people and many students consider them among their favourite experiences of the year.

The year began with a structured schedule of courses and a variety of physically engaging off-campus activities every Friday afternoon. Core subjects and extended core subjects, such as accounting, business, biology, chemistry, economics, geography, history, physics, and religious education, were emphasised, with regular assessments conducted throughout the year to support teaching and learning. Additionally, the timetable included a wide range of optional subjects, including architecture, creative writing, culinary arts, film studies, journalism, philosophy, salsa dancing, web design, and yoga, among others.

In November, preparations for the Winter Fair began and it was, as always, a tremendous success. Transition Year students played a vital role in organising, running, managing, and fundraising, collaborating with staff to generate essential funds for the institutions supported by the College in Uganda. During Christmas week, the students had the chance to boost their CV's by acquiring First Aid skills, taking aptitude tests, and honing their interview techniques in discussions with their form teachers about their experiences so far.

In January, Transition Year Subject Teacher Parent meetings were held online using Microsoft Teams over two evenings. Meetings were scheduled with modern foreign language and English teachers on Tuesday, 16 January and mathematics and Irish on Thursday, 18 January. U-Live took place again in February, showcasing the tremendous effort students put into performing, organising acts, promoting, and producing an outstanding show.

After the mid-term break, students embarked on their first work experience sessions in various companies and organisations both in Ireland and abroad. In February, they also enjoyed a week-long ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy. In March, the students participated in a workshop presented by As I Am,

Ireland's autism charity. The workshop was very informative and was also very well received by the ASD students in Transition Year.

In May, students travelled to Barcelona for an exciting and activity-packed four-day exploration of the Spanish city. It was delightful to witness the students' enthusiasm and enjoyment from these experiences.

In October and May, students had the chance to participate in a hike and overnight camping experience in Glendalough. This event is always a highlight of the year and contributes to the Gaisce awards for participants. Transition Year concluded with a busy week of assessments, interviews, and preparations for the Transition Year Evening showcase. It was heartening to hear students describe their learning and experiences in their own words and to see them recognised for their efforts. To complete the year, eighteen students, accompanied by five teachers, travelled to Uganda. Prior to the trip, they engaged in extensive fundraising to support school fees, supplies, and building initiatives during their visit.

Charitable Activities

Students and staff have been active fundraisers for, and participants in, many local and national charities this year. As part of the College strategic five-year plan, it was agreed that the Gavin Glynn Foundation and Pieta House would be our chosen charities for support throughout the year. Charities that have been supported also in this current academic year are as follows:

Daffodil Day – Irish Cancer Society	Down Syndrome Ireland
DSPCA	Irish Wheelchair Rugby
Mark Pollock Trust	Odd Balls Foundation
RNLI	Seal Rescue Ireland
Ukraine Appeal	

Transition Year students have continued to fundraise for our Transition Year Uganda Project. Other Year groups also carried out a variety of fundraising events.

Child Protection Procedures

The Board of Management annual review of The Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was conducted in March 2024. This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in Appendix 2 of the Department's 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools'. The policy was sent to the PTA and the Student Council for their consideration as part of the review process. The policy was also emailed to all staff and parents to inform them that a review was underway, and staff and parents were asked to consider the document and revert to the Principal with any queries or comments as appropriate. The Board of Management approved the review on 30 April 2024. The newly approved policy was sent to all staff and parents of the College.

The Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is posted in the main reception area and in the Junior School reception and Collen building.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) was Mr Rob Micallef for the academic year 2023/2024, Acting Principal. Ms Mary Keddy, Deputy Principal is the Deputy DLP.

Student Council

The Student Council structure in St Andrew's College comprises Year Councils and a Whole School Council (WSC). Year Councils are in operation in Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year and Fifth Year. First Year students joined the WSC in January after their own election within the year group for a First Year Student Council. Elections for student representatives are held in May for the upcoming year. Students from First Year to Transition Year vote to elect two representatives from each form group to the relevant Year Council. These councils then elect two representatives to sit on the Whole School Council. The Head Girl and Head Boy set the agenda and chair the WSC meetings. Minutes of the WSC meetings are retained in files on the WSC Teams Page for the attention of Year Heads, and the Senior Leadership Team. Minutes are also posted on the WSC noticeboard in the College.

Year Councils and the Whole School Council serve as vital channels of communication for expressing student perspectives, allowing the Senior Leadership Team to understand the needs and concerns of the students in the day-to-day life of the College. This dialogue fosters a collaborative approach to decision-making and ensures that the College's policies and initiatives are reflective of the diverse experiences and viewpoints within the student community.

WSC meetings took place once a month with an initial meeting taking place on 21 September during which the council members discussed their aims and aspirations for the year. At the beginning of the year and in consultation with Year Councils, students agreed charities for the next two years as part of the five-year strategic plan. The Gavin Glynn Foundation proposed by the PTA was agreed with the WSC and students also approved Pieta House as the student charity to be supported. The WSC students made invaluable contributions during the year, on the discussion of the College core values. They organised the student support noticeboard raising awareness for students on supports available within the College. Classroom values and responsibility of students were other topics of discussion at meetings. Students reviewed The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement and Acceptable Usage Policy.

This summary of WSC 2023-24 participation and involvement throughout the year emphasises the importance of their role in enhancing the school community.

Bullying Awareness

The main focus of this year's Anti-Bullying Committee was to build on the great success of last year's House Cup Day and house system. It was agreed at the end of the 2022/2023 academic year that the house system would be expanded to three House Cup Events; Halloween, Christmas and after the Easter break. Each of the events were judged and added to the overall points tally to decide this year's House Cup winner.

Our Halloween event took place on the last day before the October midterm. Each house was given the task of dressing up as a film theme, chosen by each House Cup Head. This worked very well and was a great success. The Christmas event was an ambitious idea. Each house was assigned a part of the school to decorate festively. The focus was put on each house making their own decorations so as

to produce less waste. The students had great fun decorating their house areas whilst listening to festive music. Another key part of this event was that each house was responsible for taking down their own decorations which emphasised the importance of taking responsibility and cleaning up after themselves. The final House Cup event took place after the Easter break. Students took part in various activities in groups of 24. The morning events included games, team building exercises, scavenger hunt, capture the flag, and dance practice. To finish, each house performed a choreographed dance with House Yellow victorious for the second year in a row.

On completion of all events, a whole school survey was sent to all students requesting feedback on how the House Cup has impacted on the school's culture and community. Results received indicate that the majority of students feel the House Cup has succeeded in promoting the theme of community and 86% have said the House Cup has had a positive effect on the school.

Tea and Chats continued to run on Tuesdays during lunchtime. This year it was managed completely by Sixth and Fifth Year students who put in a huge amount of work to create a welcoming environment for all who participated. We continue to promote the practice of Upstanding to the junior cycle year group through their SPHE programme and the Form Teacher system while the message is reinforced through senior cycle RSE.

Mentor Programme

The Mentor programme began as usual with the promotion and application process through the Transition Year system and Form Teachers. As always, there was great enthusiasm with over 100 applicants. As in previous years, most mentors recall their own experience and want to offer support while also enjoying the role of responsibility.

At the first induction day in April, it was wonderful to see the response from volunteers to come in and initiate the first contact between mentors and First Year students. A small number of mentors acted as receptionists, welcoming everyone in and eventually having an opportunity to meet up with groups of First Year students and give them a warm welcome into the senior school. At the end of August, prior to our return, we held a Mentor Training morning where the role of mentor was outlined, and strategies explained and guidance as to how best to build a good relationship with their mentee. We also outlined the limits of their role and the importance of passing on any concerns or observations, up the line to the First Year Team.

With the mentors paired up with either one or two mentees, a big effort was made to give mentors a locker above their mentees, facilitating a daily chat and interaction. This is where students really got to know each other and it gave mentors an opportunity to keep a watchful eye over the younger students. The art of opening the combination lock was at times, an icebreaker in the early days. We chose themes such as finding your way around, sports and extra-curricular, organisation and books, the school digital technology system, friendships, and issues such as bullying or exclusion. Many mentors made a real effort to use this to good effect and it helped new First Year students make the transition to senior school smoothly. Prior to Christmas, another initiative was organised to encourage the students and give support with organising their study and preparation for the Christmas examinations. Study plans were explained which helped reduce the worry attached to the first proper house exam. Mentors were also enrolled throughout the year to help with the organisation of other College activities related to First Year.

The mentors, in their roles, are best placed to spot behaviours, friendship or exclusion, contentment or challenges of social interaction for our younger students. The mentor process enables senior

students to develop their leadership skills and it encourages them to take on the mantle of responsibility, which is an important part of their development also as citizens of the College.

Finally, as we begin the process again it is always useful to get the support of standout mentors to help promote the presentation of the Mentor Programme for the next year group.

Green School/Environment Group

The Green School/Environment Group (GS/EG) committee continued to raise awareness of all environmental and green school initiatives through weekly meetings, assemblies, posters around the College and social media platform. We currently have 340 followers on Instagram. The page has been highlighting issues around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental issues.

There are, currently, 140 email members and a group of students meet weekly. All updates and events are shared on an email to the group to ensure that all students are up to date on activities and that they have ample opportunity to get involved with action projects. This group is student led and facilitated by coordinating teachers.

The GS/EG has achieved the following:

1. House areas have been planted with vegetables and various plants to increase 'green' areas.
2. Compost cages have been installed.
3. An outdoor classroom has been installed outside area 4.
4. '1000 Tree Project' – we looked to plant 'Pocket Forests' by giving out a total of 2500 trees so far. We reached out to the school community with the possibility of planting trees in areas of land that they own (or some of the smaller spaces in the school).
5. We have developed biodiversity in the school grounds by marking off areas as 'no cut zones.'
6. A Green Policy for the school was developed.
7. We took part in the 'Global Air Project' (<https://www.globe.gov/about/overview>), see website for information. We installed a permanent NOx meter at the school gate in conjunction with DPD (courier company).
8. A donation was made to the Seal Sanctuary in Courtown, Co. Wexford totalling €250. Seals are sponsored for rehabilitation and release. Their progress is available online and on the Green Schools notice board.
9. Various beach and park clean ups occur on an ongoing basis.
10. We created a plastic art installation of plastic waste in conjunction with the Art department. (House area 2). A new 'Biodiversity' mural has been installed.
11. Walk on Wednesdays (WOW), Cycle on Wednesdays (COW) have been established to encourage students to walk/cycle to school. Dunlaoghaire Rathdown Council (DLR) have put in many cycle lanes and students have responded in numbers to them by opting for the bike.
12. Clothes Swap Shop.
13. Bike to school for summer term campaign 2024.
14. Sustainability for Education is still a core subject for Transition Year and is now becoming a Leaving Certificate subject in 2025.
15. The canteen continues to support the school in being as sustainable as possible and this is very much appreciated.
16. Support for SAC plastic free school continues through online awareness.

Parental Involvement

Parent Information Evenings

Parent Information Evenings were held for all year groups on the dates below. All meetings were held in person and contained a welcome from the Acting Principal along with a presentation by the relevant Deputy Principal and a year specific induction delivered by the Year Heads. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions as the evening progressed and there was the opportunity for further questions at the end of the Year Head presentations.

Wednesday, 24 August	Sixth Year
Thursday, 25 August	Fifth Year
Monday, 28 August	Third Year
Tuesday, 29 August	Second Year
Thursday, 31 August	Transition Year

- IB Information Evening – August 2023
- Options Evenings for First, Transition and Fifth Year students – January 2024

School Events

Parents were invited to attend a variety of school functions and events throughout the year. In 2023/2024 these included:

- PTA Coffee Mornings for all year groups
- Coffee Mornings for international parents and host parents of Junior and Secondary School students
- College Musical – November 2023
- International Night – November 2023
- Winter Fair – December 2023
- Carol Service – December 2023
- PTA Christmas Social Evening – December 2023
- PTA Charity Lunch – January 2024
- U-Live Concert - February 2024
- One Act Drama Festival - March 2024
- PTA Table Quiz – March 2024
- Music and Dance Concert – April 2024
- Launch of *The Wine Dark Sea* – May 2024
- Sixth Year Valedictory Evening – May 2024

School Development Planning

School Policies

All policies that make up the school plan are available on the College website: www.sac.ie. The following have been the main developments in school planning in 2023/2024:

- The on-going review of St Andrew's College policies
- The on-going work on the Junior Cycle Curriculum Plan
- The on-going work on the introduction of the Wellbeing Programme
- The on-going review of Subject Development Plans in all departments
- The on-going work on School Self-Evaluation with the continuing work of Literacy and Numeracy Core Teams, the Digital Strategy and the Assessment Strategy
- The formal revision of the following policies:

Additional Educational Needs Policy	Admissions Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy	Anti-Bullying Policy for Staff
AUP for Staff Policy	Child Safeguarding and Risk Assessment Statement
CCTV Policy	Code of Behaviour for Students Policy
Critical Incident Plan	EAL Policy
Electronic Device Policy	E-Safety Policy
Harassment and Sexual Harassment Policy for Staff	Irish Language Policy
Parents' Charter	Practices and Procedures in relation to the SAC Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Statement
Protected Disclosures Policy	Senior School Assessment Policy

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

This year, the focus was on the output from last year's review year. As an output from the previous academic year's research, it was decided that we would focus especially on feedback and partly on wellbeing.

SSE Staff Committee

A committee of staff members was formed. This committee met to discuss the next steps with regards to feedback. It was decided at this meeting that, Fifth Year students and staff members would be

surveyed. Also, a focus group discussion would be carried out with a number of Fifth Year students. The committee would meet again to discuss the results of this data.

Student Survey and Focus Group

The survey received responses from 70 Fifth Year students. A focus group discussion was also carried out with a group of Fifth Year students. The following areas were identified as being the most common areas of focus going forward:

- One to one verbal feedback from teachers, within the time constraints of the school timetable.
- Feedback which is constructive and offers practical advice which allows students to improve their next assignments.
- For Junior Cycle year groups, a practical strategy that allows them to improve on the feedback they receive.

Staff Survey

The survey received responses from 39 staff members. The following areas of focus were identified as being the most common areas of focus going forward:

- Feedback specifying what students have achieved and where they need to improve.
- Students being given a chance to make improvements on their work based on the feedback they receive.

Once this data was received, the SSE staff committee had another meeting in which they discussed the results of the surveys and focus group. Several initiatives were suggested and discussed, e.g. the introduction of a feedback rubric for teachers, a feedback/corrections reflection handout for students with devices. The committee continues to work on these suggested initiatives with the aim of implementation in August 2024.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing was also a focus of SSE in the school this year. The Sixth Year team along with Sixth Year members of the student council worked on putting a wellbeing notice board together for students.

Staff presentation

A brief presentation was given at the April staff meeting to update staff members on the progress of SSE since December 2023. The details of the student and staff surveys were outlined in order to keep staff abreast of developments.

Digital Learning

The Digital Learning Team (DLT) at St Andrew's College is committed to implementing the Digital Strategy for Schools and developing the Digital Learning Plan (DLP) in alignment with it. To ensure its relevance and effectiveness, the DLP is reviewed and updated annually.

This year, our focus was again on Pillar 1 of the Strategy: Supporting the integration of digital technologies in teaching, learning, and assessment, with the goal of empowering schools to leverage

digital transformation opportunities. Specifically, we targeted standards 4.11 and 4.42 from the DLP and undertook several initiatives to enhance the student learning experience with digital technology in the classroom. We also provided extensive support to both staff and students during the inaugural year of our 1-1 device policy for First Year students.

At the start of the year, all new staff received an induction on how to use the school platform and VSware. The Digital Learning Team organised ongoing individual and group training sessions, including bi-monthly drop-in sessions covering various topics such as Class Notebook, Teams, OneDrive, the benefits and pitfalls of AI, as well as screen sharing in the classroom using LetsView. Personalised one-to-one training on these topics was offered to PME students, which was subsequently extended to all staff upon request.

In September 2023, we introduced the newly designed eight week Digital Skills Module for all First Year students as part of their Wellbeing curriculum. The DLT provided comprehensive training for all staff on this module and offered continuous resources and support throughout its duration. Preceding the module, a two day First- Year induction was conducted to familiarise students with their devices, email login procedures, and the Microsoft suite, setting the stage for the Digital Skills Module.

To ensure the module's success and alignment with students' device usage, the DLT conducted staff surveys and organised two student focus groups. These groups proved invaluable in identifying the benefits of using devices in class to enhance the learning experience and addressing any issues that arose. A mid-module focus group was held to assess student progress, followed by a review session at the module's conclusion to refine and improve the programme for the upcoming first-year cohort in August 2024.

Additionally, the DLT organised training sessions on integrating digital technology into subject plans to enrich the student learning experience as part of the Junior Cycle Training Day in April 2024. This training aimed to build confidence in teaching and learning strategies that place digital technology in students' hands, fostering creativity in the classroom.

The Digital Learning Team at St. Andrew's College remains committed to the ongoing implementation of the Digital Learning Framework and the development of the Digital Learning Plan. Through continuous professional development, ongoing support, and strategic initiatives, we are dedicated to ensuring that digital technologies become deeply ingrained in teaching, learning, and assessment practices throughout our school community.

¹ 4.1 Standard: Teachers value and engage in professional development and professional collaboration

Teachers engage in professional development, lead and support colleagues in selecting and aligning digital technologies with effective teaching strategies to expand learning opportunities for all students.

Teachers collaboratively effect change at a whole-school level to innovate and improve educational practice, through the embedding of a range of digital technologies in teaching and learning.

² 4.4 Teachers contribute to building whole - staff capacity by sharing their expertise

Teachers lead and support colleagues within the school to develop a shared vision of how digital technologies can enhance learning opportunities for all students.

Staff Development

St Andrew's College staff has attended a wide range of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training throughout the year. Conferences/workshops attended by staff included the following:

AEN Irish Learning Support Association ILSA Autumn Conference 2023 ILSA Spring Conference 2024	Agricultural Science AgVenture 2023	Applied Mathematics Oide Applied Maths NS
Art Second Subjects 2023: Visual Art SS 2023	Biology In Thinking DP Category 2 Biology Workshop	Classics Classical Association of Ireland – Teacher Conference Classics Workshop
EAL Internationalism Development Perspective	English Leaving Certificate English – King Lear and Hamlet Leaving Certificate English – Comparative Study and Poetry of Tracy K Smith Teaching Academic Writing at Senior Level	French AIPLF National Congress for post- primary Teachers of French Congr�s Nastional 2023, FTA Irlande Languages Connect Summit
Gaeilge M�ineadh na Gaeilge sa tSraith Sh�isearach le Tom�s � Madag�in	Geography Second Subjects 2023: Geography SS 2023	Graphics Graphics Workshops
Guidance Suicide Prevention	History How to structure the Enquiry Process: CBA2 JC History	Music Post Primary Music Teachers Association <i>Cumann M�inteoir�</i> <i>Ceoil Iar-bhunscoile</i> Movement in JC Music
Spanish ATS National conference	Science Irish Science Teachers' Association - National Conference	SPHE Senior Cycle RSE Day - Mental Health
Wellbeing in Education Dove Self Esteem Project Mindout Programme Understanding Self-Harm A Whole School Approach in Wellbeing		

Significant Student Achievements

Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Award

Trinity Entrance Exhibition awards were awarded to the following four, Class of 2023 past pupils: Timothy Celano, Guy Jenkinson, Luke Johnson and James McGrath.

UCD Entrance Scholars (Academic High Achievers)

UCD Entrance Exhibition awards were awarded to Rebecca Bowers, Pepijn Brama, Sarah Brownlee, Charlie Byrne, Conn Doherty, Martha Duignan, Jacques Ferrandez, Holly Fletcher, Jack Gilchrist, Ciara Hardy, Holly Houlden, Sophie Jones, Yusuf Kamali, Anna Lucas, Francis Manzocchi, Jude McCrea, James O'Donoghue, Lucy Simpson, Suzanne Thirion, Adam Tobin, Thomas Tweedy and Anna White, all Class of 2023 students.

DCU Academic Scholarship

Donagh Kelly (Class of 2023) was awarded a DCU Academic Scholarship at a reception which was held on Wednesday, 29 November.

European Olympiad of Experimental Science (EOES)

Yitian Chen (5IB) was selected to represent Ireland in the European Olympiad of Experimental Science (EOES) 2024 for Chemistry in Luxembourg which took place on 7-14 April 2024. Yitian was awarded a bronze medal which was a superb achievement.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2024

The BT Young Scientist and Technology exhibition 2024 took place in January at the RDS. Weichen Huang (Fifth Year) was awarded 2nd Place in the Senior Individual category for Technology. In addition, Weichan was awarded a Special Award sponsored by the Irish Research Council.

Jack Henderson Medal

Zahra Nassiri (Transition Year) was awarded the Jack Henderson Medal for achieving the highest mark in classics in the Junior Cycle Examination 2023. Zahra was invited, along with her parents, the Acting Principal, and Zahra's teacher of classical studies to attend a presentation ceremony which was held in UCD on Friday 19 April 2024.

Chess

The St Andrew's College Chess Club had a very busy year. They took part in various tournaments, organised their own tournament as well as weekly school activities. Chess continued to be a popular activity across all year groups with weekly attendance of 35-60 students.

The main weekly meetings of the Chess Club were as follows:

- Lunchtime Chess every Monday
- Online Chess every Thursday evening at 7.30pm on the platform LiChess.org

The student led chess committee held a tournament in the College on 25 September. The event was a tremendous success with over five hundred students from over 40 schools across Leinster attending. Over 50 students volunteered to come in on their day off to assist with the running of the event which demonstrated the level of community spirit within the College. Later in the year, our students attended smaller tournaments held by neighbouring schools which gave them the opportunity to participate in competitions with local schools.

Robotics Club (First Lego League)

First Lego League is a global competition designed as an introduction to robotics for First to Transition Year students. The competition is made up of Regional Rounds, where teams then qualify for a National Round, which is the qualifier for the World Finals.

This year the theme was Masterpiece, focussing on creativity and the arts in STEM. Six teams emerged to represent the school in the regional rounds which included secondary school and P6 students.

UCD Regional Round

The Second Year Team (Brobots) and P6 Team (Tiny Frog Overlords) went to UCD in February 2024 to partake in their regional round. Both teams did very well and gained lots of valuable experience for future competitions.

Monaghan Regional Round

Robo Rascals and Supertroopers attended the Combi-Lift Global HQ in Monaghan which also took place in February. It was a very competitive day but also very successful as Robo Rascals won the Monaghan Regional Tournament, which earned them a place in the National Finals and Supertroopers won the Innovation Project trophy.

All Ireland National Finals

The students in Robo Rascals and DaVinci Coders represented the College at the All Ireland National Finals at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport Hotel in March which made up a total of 24 teams. St Andrew's College was the only school to have two teams qualify for the event. The DaVinci Coders won the Best Robot Design Award which was an amazing result.

The teams continued to meet on Wednesdays and Fridays, trying out new designs and tricks that they observed at the All Irelands, learning how to use different sensors and motors, all in preparation for next year.

Competitive Coding and Algorithmic Problem Solving Club

This is a student led club at the College. Pioneered by Fifth Year student Weichen Huang, the club meets at lunchtime on Thursdays. The club aims to promote and improve the College's STEM offering building on the coding opportunities afforded to students that partake in First Lego League and want to take their coding skills to the next level. In the competitive coding club, we aim to design fast and efficient algorithms to solve problems in a contest-based setting. In doing so, we will also begin to understand many fascinating areas in the field of computer science and mathematics that are typically reserved for university, along with teaching basic coding skills to those that want to give it a go and learn a new skill.

Bebras Challenge

The Bebras Computing Challenge which is run in Ireland by the Irish Computer Society, introduces computational thinking and computer science to students from 6-18 years, by allowing them to solve interactive tasks online. The aim of Bebras is to get students all over the world excited about computing. Four of our students participated in the challenge which was held over three weeks in November. The students found it to be a good, interesting challenge and learned a lot from the experience.

Capture The Flag Events

The club took part in two Cyber Security Capture the Flag events this year, one in October and the other in April held in UCD. At these events the students completed multiple challenges in order to score points and collect flags, all themed cyber security. The events proved to be very beneficial as the students learned about cyber security and algorithmic problem solving, whilst having fun. Our Second Year Team made up of Julian Banim, Jack Bohill, Ryan Brew and Hugo McVeigh were placed 2nd at the April event.

Young Economist of the Year

The Young Economist of the Year competition is an inquiry-based research competition for students of First to Sixth Year in the area of Economics. The competition is sponsored by the PDST in association with the Irish Economics Association (IEA), Maynooth University, NUI Galway, UCD, UCC, Trinity College, Limerick University, the Central Bank of Ireland, and the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES). St Andrew's College had twelve entries this year from Second to Sixth Year students. Projects are initially categorised as Participation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Gold medal projects are eligible to win further awards, such as first place in their year, or one of the special interest prizes at the National Awards ceremony, which took place on the 8 May in the University of Limerick.

All of our projects were awarded gold medals, six of the twelve gold medalists went on to win further prizes. They were as follows:

Government Economic Policy Award: Sponsored by IGEES (Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service)

Winner: Eoin Kinsman (Transition Year)

Project: The Irish housing crisis: An issue of supply or demand?

Real Life Applications of Economics Award: Sponsored by TUD

Winner: James Hayes (Fifth Year)

Project: The socio-economic impacts on the Irish economy of raising the passenger cap at Dublin Airport.

2nd Place in Second Year

Winner: Jack Bohill

Project: Would an Underground Train System in Dublin Be Feasible?

3rd Place in Third Year

Winner: Sam Sheng, Vivaan Shrivastava and Max Wang

Project: Does the needs of the oil industry outweigh the needs of the world?

1st Place in Transition Year

Winner: Sophie O'Connor

Project: Military spending in Europe: the false economy of decades of underinvestment?

3rd Place in Transition Year

Winner: James Kirby, Matthew Lane and Cian Sengupta

Project: Generative AI and its impact on the banking industry

Prize Giving Ceremony

Our annual Academic Prize Giving ceremony took place on Monday, 20 November in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The Guest of Honour was Dr Kyle Frohna, a past pupil of the College, Class of 2013. Kyle is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Physics and Chemical Engineering Departments at the University of Cambridge, UK. His work focuses on developing new materials to generate and store renewable energy, in particular, Kyle's recent work has been on studying new types of materials to make cheaper, lighter and higher performing solar panels. After graduating from St Andrew's College, Kyle studied nanoscience (a mix of physics and chemistry) at Trinity College Dublin. It was during this time that he developed a particular concern about climate change and a strong desire to develop technological solutions to address it. Kyle did his PhD focusing on solar energy at the Department of Physics, University of Cambridge. Kyle is passionate about scientific outreach and communicating the importance of science and climate change to the general public. In 2024, he will join Stanford University, USA as an Energy Fellow to develop large-scale renewable energy storage - a key factor still missing in renewable energy systems.

In his speech, Kyle talked about climate change and how our students could impact the future of the climate and humanity by making meaningful choices. Kyle referenced the work done by the College's environment committee and by students at SciFest. He encouraged students to participate in debating, MUN, arts and culture, and to find and continue working with hobbies in areas that interest them. Finally, Kyle reminded the students of the importance of kindness to all and the strength of being part of a community stating 'it's hard to change the world, but it's very easy to change someone's day.'

Mr Micallef, Acting Principal also spoke about community and the importance the College places on community and giving. He congratulated all our academic prizewinners for their excellent efforts and reminded students that 'education is an investment in the future; your future, your family's, your community's'.

Mr Micallef also noted the tireless work of SACA and the PTA in representing, assisting and connecting College parents and past pupils. Mrs Hilary McCowen Rabbette (Chair of the Board) welcomed Dr Kyle Frohna and thanked Kyle for giving so generously of his time to our Prizegiving Ceremony 2023. Alumni Cups, presented by SACA, were awarded to Sarah Brownlee and Donagh Kelly.

Student Spirit Awards

The inaugural Student Spirit Awards ceremony took place at special assemblies to First, Second, Third, and Fifth Year students at the end of the academic year. These awards are a new initiative to recognise students who embody the spirit of our College. The spirit awards are unique and special because they go beyond traditional metrics of success. In presenting these awards recognition was given to students for their attributes of kindness, generosity, helpfulness, and enthusiasm displayed by them in daily life at St Andrew's College, both inside and outside the classroom. These awards also recognise outstanding and exemplary behaviour in attendance, punctuality, and pride in wearing the St Andrew's College uniform throughout the academic year. The positive contributions and active participation of our students support our efforts in building a caring, supportive, and inclusive community where everyone is valued.

Remembrance Service

The annual Remembrance Ceremony took place on Friday, 10 November 2023. The ceremony, commemorates all those who lost their lives in both World Wars and, in particular, St Andrew's College students who made the ultimate sacrifice. Guests in attendance included Mrs Hilary McCowen Rabbette (Chair of the Board), Mr John Ingram (Advisor to the Board of Governors) and Mr Graham Weir (President of SACA). The Head Boy and Head Girl read out the roll of honour and wreaths were placed at the memorial.

Holocaust Memorial Day

As part of the Holocaust Education Ireland (HEI) crocus project, the IB history students planted yellow crocuses to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024 took place from Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 March with a variety of activities for each year group to participate in each day. The Irish department was decorated and posters were hung up to promote the events of the week. Announcements were made at assemblies to remind students of the events taking place.

The choir, organised by the music department, performed an Irish song, Mo Ghile Mear at the Monday morning assembly. First Year students competed in Comórtas Litriúcháin (spelling bee) and their projects were displayed as part of Comórtas Tish Parsons. Second Year students created posters, based on old Irish proverbs (seanfhocail), which were displayed outside of their classrooms. A table quiz was held for Third Year students while Transition Year students watched the award-winning film 'An Cailín Ciúin'. Transition Year students also participated in a debate as Gaeilge. The Transition Year culture class performed their first traditional music public performance in the senior hall. As part of the Comórtas Scannánaíochta, Fifth Year students screened several short films that were written, acted and recorded by the students. The annual Céilí Mór took place at lunchtime in the senior hall.

Junior and Senior Debate Club

Junior Debate Club met on Tuesday lunchtime and was open to all First to Third Year students. Senior Debate Club met on Thursday lunchtime and was open to all Transition to Sixth Year students. Both clubs saw exponential growth this year, with 66 students engaging with Senior Debate Club and 51 students engaging with Junior Debate Club. Throughout the year, the clubs met weekly, engaging in mini debates and various public speaking/debate practice exercises. In addition to this, there were numerous competitions that the students took part in throughout the year.

UCD Junior Debate Competition

This is a competition run by UCD's two debating societies, Literary and Historical Society and Law Society for First to Third year students. We entered nine teams, three of which made it through to the semi-finals. Team B progressed through to the final and won the whole competition.

Trinity PhilSpeaks Pro-Am

In November, Isla Kerr and Georgia Newall (Transition Year) represented the College at the annual Philspeaks Pro-Am event held in the Graduate Memorial Building in Trinity College.

Leinster Schools Debate Competition

This is a competition run by UCD's two debating societies, Literary and Historical Society and Law Society for Transition to Sixth Year students. We entered three teams, one of which made it through to the semi-final held in March.

Hist Girls Mace

This competition was held in Trinity College in March. Isla Kerr and Zahra Nassiri (Transition Year) were the overall winners of the competition.

Concern Debates

The Concern Debate is a competition organised and ran for the past 30 years by the charity Concern, with topics focused on education, gender equality, health and nutrition, emergencies, livelihood and climate and environment. Our teams progressed to the knockout stages in February finishing in the last sixteen which was an excellent result. They did an excellent job representing the College.

National Junior Mace Debating Final

The final of the Junior Schools Debating competition took place in UCD on Wednesday 27 April. Aran Begley (Third Year) and Finn O'Dónaill, Carol O'Grady and Astrid O'Kane (Fifth Year) represented the College at this very prestigious competition.

Oxford Schools Debate Competition

The Irish Regional Round of this prestigious International Debating Competition took place in January at the Institute of Education. St Andrew's College was represented by three teams of Transition Year and Fifth Year students. Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (Transition Year) progressed through to the international final held in Oxford Union in March. They placed 69th overall which was a huge achievement.

Senior Mace Debate Competition

The senior debate club took part in the annual, Literary and Historical Society Mace Debate Competition in UCD in February. The College was represented by Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (Transition Year).

PhilSpeaks Schools Mace

This event took place in Trinity College in February. We were represented by Alisha Manoj and Zahra Nassiri (Transition Year).

The Great Debate

As the competition season drew to a close, the Debate Committee organised a Debating Competition within the school for all students, regardless of their debating experience. This proved to be a very successful initiative, with lots of students from all year groups signing up to take part, many of which had never taken part in any debating competition, or even the lunchtime debate clubs throughout the year. Overall, it proved to be a very successful event and something to build on for next year. The winners were Laura Galligan and Sarah-Beth Parker (Second Year).

Model United Nations

Model United Nations (MUN) ran throughout the year with meetings taking place three afternoons per week. MUN is a simulation of the United Nations where students research and debate topics of global significance from the perspective of different countries. The meetings are organised and chaired by students. A key aspect of MUN is the older students learning leadership skills and using these skills to run the meetings and to teach MUN to the younger students. St Andrew's College has been doing MUN since 1983 and has hosted our own four day conference, St Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN), since 1988. In recent years, many other Irish schools are hosting their own day and a half conference which has led to a busy MUN calendar this year for the students. At the start of the year, students from Transition, Fifth and Sixth Year took part in MUN. Third Year students got involved just after Christmas and some Second Year students were involved in SAIMUN which was held during the first week of the Easter holidays in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. This year, in total, 313 students participated in MUN.

Blackrock College MUN

Represented by 31 students, mainly from Transition Year. We were awarded two Distinguished Delegate awards.

Mount Anville School MUN

Represented by total of 19 students. We had two committee chairs: Sadhbh Sheehy and Carlos Villamil. We were awarded two Distinguished Delegate awards.

Newpark MUN

Represented by 20 students. Isaac Keating was awarded best First-Time Delegate award.

Rathdown School

Represented by 41 students from Transition to Sixth Year. We were awarded six individual Distinguished Delegate awards and an Outstanding Delegation award. We had two committee chairs: Amelia Flanagan and Aidan Leahy.

Royal Russell School

Represented by 37 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. We were awarded eight individual Distinguished Delegate awards. Our delegations representing Russia and Qatar both won a Highly Commended Delegation award.

Terenure College MUN

Represented by 29 students from Transition to Sixth Year. We were awarded five Distinguished Delegate awards.

The Hague Model United Nations (THIMUN)

Represented by 36 students from Fifth and Sixth Year. Out of the 36 students, 29 received the opportunity to debate several topical issues in the Word forum representing Thailand and USA. We had Rosie Gunn, working in Approval Panel, Anna Moore as President of ECOSOC and four students, Ruby Newall, Alice Papon, Anna Plunkett and Billy Williams working in the Munity, the conference magazine. The Hague MUN does not present awards. This year we were privileged to have two student officers at the conference: Anna Moore as committee chair and Amelie-Rose Tiernan as International Criminal Court representative.

Wesley College MUN

Represented by 26 students. Three of our students were awarded the Best Delegate award and four were awarded Highly Commended Delegate awards along with a Best Delegation award. We had one student Aidan Leahy selected as committee chair.

St Andrew's College Model United Nations

The 35th St Andrew's College Model United Nations (SAIMUN) 2024 took place from Monday, 25 March to Thursday, 27 March in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. Almost 400 hundred students and advisors attended the conference, representing over 60 countries. Schools travelled from many countries to Ireland including, France, China, Greece, Jordan, Turkey and USA. Following an opening speech by Mr Robert Micallef and some excellent musical performances, His Excellency Andrej Drobova, the Slovak Ambassador to Ireland (father of Fifth Year student Sara Drobova), spoke during this year's Opening Ceremony of SAIMUN. Mr Drobova has over 25 years of experience in diplomacy. He served as the Ambassador to Canada, Ireland and Poland, working twice beforehand as a Diplomat in the United States of America. His Excellency Andrej Drobova additionally spoke about his time in the UN as a Junior Diplomat, putting an emphasis on the importance of the United Nations and the principles the organisation holds.

Administration and IT departments ensured that everything in our paperless conference ran smoothly. The executive team led by Secretaries-General, Zara Griffin and Anna Moore, Deputy Secretaries-General, Amelia Flanagan and Elsa Micallef and The Presidents of The General Assembly, Hugh Brownlee and Christopher Lane gave excellent leadership. At the closing ceremony, which was sponsored by the PTA, the awards were presented including multiple awards for the school. The highlights being, a Highly Commended Delegation award for the twelve students representing UK and Malta. Outstanding Delegation award for the six students representing France, as well as many individual awards. Approximately 200 St Andrew's College students participated in the conference.

We attended the Wicklow Education Together Secondary School MUN in April. We had two Fifth Year students, Thomas Bruen and Amelia Hoggett representing the College as Committee Chairs. We were awarded a Best Delegation award and five individual awards. Also in April, High School ran their own MUN for the second time in many years. We had seven students representing the College. James Hayes won Distinguished Delegate award and Sadhbh Sheehy was awarded Best Delegate award. We held our End of Year MUN Awards Dinner on Friday, 10 May which was sponsored by the PTA. The dinner was held in the Senior Hall with presentation of certificates to all of the students, some musical performances and a reflection of the year from Sixth Year students. This was a lovely evening and a fine way to finish MUN for the year.

Intercultural Week

Intercultural Week was held from Monday 13 to Friday 17 November. A large number of students participated in and assisted with the running of many diverse events intended to showcase our international student body and the diverse cultures of our school.

Each morning, students were welcomed to school by their peers and teachers announcing morning messages in a variety of languages over the intercom. Some of the activities held in the Junior Hall and the Senior Hall included whole school karaoke, language kiosks (learn a few words in a new language), IB International afternoon tea, European quizzes, Just Dance competitions, USA and Canada games and more. It was a fun filled week with students embracing the cultures celebrated each day. Sodexo designed a very successful Intercultural Week menu for the students and staff to enjoy.

International Night

The 2023 International Night took place on Wednesday, 15 November with a record number of applications this year of 240 entry forms. The evening commenced with an opening ceremony which included a welcome address from Mr Rob Micallef (Acting Principal). Head Boy, Hugh Brownlee and Head Girl, Amelia Flanagan were co-presenters for the event which comprised a colourful ceremony of 47 flags from every corner of the world and a record participation of 215 students proudly walking in the parade. There were wonderful musical performances both before and after the ceremony of flags, which was followed by the opening of the food stalls and activity booths.

Food stalls from 18 different countries displayed an amazing array of food and drink from all over the world. We had food from a wide range of countries displaying their national cuisine, which included America, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and South Africa. After the success of last year, many regular participants returned with enthusiasm and excitement and as a result, the atmosphere was electric. Over 76 parents worked together for weeks in advance to prepare their food stalls, some of them forging new relationships and many of them promising to return again next year.

This year's musical entertainment was spread out over the course of the entire night. Over 30 students, and three teachers, participated in the musical components of the evening entertaining those in attendance. The welcome music was performed by a formation of students and teachers playing traditional Irish music outside the library. Before the commencement of the parade ceremony, we had two beautiful pieces of music performed by a Transition Year student who sang and was accompanied on piano by a Sixth Year student. A wonderful rendition of a classic jazz 'Bossa Nova' song was performed from a collection of talented students. It was wonderful to have this lively mix of music throughout the evening.

Both sound and lights technology were coordinated entirely by students and staff this year, making it a genuine St Andrew's driven event.

PTA

The PTA continued their valuable support of the College throughout the year. The PTA commenced their programme of activities with a Uniform Sale on 26 August which was well supported. They hosted the Debs reception for the Class of 2023 in the College on the 27 September and this joyful occasion was appreciated and enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The PTA hosted a talk in October by Richard Hogan called "Parenting The Screenager". This was followed by a Cyber Safety Webinar Parent Evening for P6 and First Year parents/guardians on 9 November. In February, the PTA held a webinar for Fifth and Sixth Year parents on navigating the senior years in school and the associated stress and worries that can come with this period. This webinar was delivered by psychologist Caroline Martin.

The PTA hosted a Christmas Social Evening in the Royal St George Yacht Club in December. The Annual Charity Lunch organised by the PTA in the InterContinental hotel in January was a huge success and raised a substantial amount of money for the Gavin Glynn Foundation and for our school. The PTA Table Quiz was a most enjoyable evening in March for staff and parents with all teams contesting closely for the winning prize.

The PTA provided support to several school activities. These included SciFest, Junior School Performing Arts Festival, Intercultural week, Senior School Music and Dance Festival, Junior School P6 Class Graduation, MUN and the Junior School Sports Day. Students were treated to ice-cream in both Junior and Senior schools sponsored by the PTA as part of their Sports Day celebration. The PTA worked with the Junior School staff and children to create beautiful Christmas cards which were purchased by many families.

The staff appreciated the 'staff breakfast' hosted by the PTA as well as the 'Advent Calendar Gifts' which the PTA arranged again this year. In addition, the PTA played an important role in the success of the Sixth Year Valedictory evening. They supported the event in both their generous donation and their time serving soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres. They were very grateful for the great support that they received from Fifth Year parent volunteers and students to make this event such a success.

Our Transition Year students recently returned from Uganda where they presented the Rubrizi School with a substantial donation from the PTA.

Coffee mornings were held in the first term including a whole school coffee morning on a sunny Saturday morning in October. Events such as these coffee mornings and the various social evenings provide a great opportunity for parents and guardians to come together and develop their St Andrew's network.

SACA

It was a busy year for SACA and the Alumni community. Events commenced with the Annual SACA Dinner held at the Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge, which was a huge success. A business event followed which was held in Residence where a panel of Alumni business people held a discussion compered by Neil Brady. The event was well attended and it is hoped that it will become an annual event. The Annual Clyde Road lunch took place in the Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire in April. It was a most enjoyable event which gave the past pupils of Clyde Road the opportunity to meet up and reminisce. The Annual Alumni table quiz was held at the Punch Bowl, Booterstown where a terrific sum of money was raised for the TY Uganda Project and CHEEERS Developing Healthcare Together. The table quiz was then followed by the Annual Rugby Lunch in Old Wesley Rugby Club which raised a great sum of money for its chosen charity.

SACA members attended many annual dinners hosted by a variety of other schools this year, which were greatly enjoyed and are a charming tradition between the various schools. The Alumni were also represented at the annual Prizegiving Ceremony in November, the Transition Year End of Year Ceremony, to mark the Transition Year student award winners and the Sixth Year Valedictory Night in the College; all excellent occasions.

The SACA social media presence and communications are being refined and enhanced all the time, to ensure that news and information is shared as far as possible to the Alumni community as to all of SACA's wonderful events.

Financial Report

The key financial objective of the College is to ensure that adequate funding is available to carry out its educational mission, maintain and improve its existing facilities and generate sufficient funds to service existing school building loans. The financial environment is extremely challenging, there has been a significant increase in costs across most goods and services purchased by the College and, is also likely to give rise to salary increases in the future. The College is fully aware of the financial pressures that parents are experiencing. As a consequence, any increase in fees in the academic year 2024/25 will, insofar as possible, be minimised whilst maintaining services to our students. A major redevelopment of the campus is planned in the coming year, and this will present new funding challenges for the College.